

# ***City of Renton - Board of Park Commissioners***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

March 8, 2016

4:30 p.m. Renton City Hall – Conference Room #726

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

#### **In Attendance:**

**Members:** Troy Wigestrang, Cynthia Burns, Al Dieckman, Avni Mungra, Mike O'Donin, , Larry Reymann, Tim Searing, Marlene Winter.

**City Staff:** Kelly Beymer, Leslie Betlach, Michael Kirk, Roberta Graver

**Guests:** Police Commander Kevin Keyes

Chair, Troy Wigestrang, called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. Roll call was taken.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Cynthia Burns made a motion, seconded by Al Dieckman to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor; motion carried; the agenda was approved.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Larry Reymann made a motion and Mike O'Donin seconded to approve the February 9, 2016 minutes presented. All were in favor; motion carried; the minutes were approved.

### **4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS / PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **5. BOARD COMMUNICATION**

***City Center Plan***— Mike O'Donin shared that the group prioritized 8-10 topics that were presented at the City Council Workshop. City staff will be reviewing the topics.

***Student Report*** —Avni Mungra described student events that engaged with the community including the Renton Youth Council, Robotics Camp (learning about new buildings being constructed in Renton), and the high school's Holiday Spirit of Giving.

### **6. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Kelly Beymer said that the City Council Workshop was a great learning experience for the new administrators. The event focused on many topics including visioning for the Airport Way changes, the Lake Washington Boulevard work, the downtown center, the upcoming one-to-two way street conversions, Rainier Ave/Shopping Cart ordinance, and how the Neighborhood Resources & Special Events division will be partnering in some volunteer events.

### **7. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

***A. Renton Police Communication / Downtown Safety*** - Police Commander Kevin was invited to share about the role the Renton Police takes in the downtown center area. Kevin shared

how they have adopted a Zero Tolerance downtown with a directed enforcement team based in the transit center area. He fielded questions about a rise in crime, responding that while crime may be perceived as increasing, the numbers are actually lower than normal. He said Renton is really a safe city, as compared to 2000 when things were really bad. There is talk of a sobering center coming to south King County, but no details yet. Renton is looking to hire 15 officers which are primarily replacements and not an increase in staff. He said there might be a need to increase staff if the Renton Fire Authority is passed. Officers are meeting with area ethnic groups, recreation and neighborhood groups, churches, all city events, and others to promote their work and presence in the community; which is a key to transparency. Topics he briefly touched on included the rise in heroin use, decrease of gang activity in the downtown area, April 9<sup>th</sup> is "Rec Day with Cops" at the Renton Community Center, police response times for high priority calls are consistently under 3 minutes, while lower priority (ie: lost wallet) are higher, use of officer body cams are still in the talks, while they do use dash cams, drones will soon be used for traffic accident/crime scenes and the key ask of citizens and the board is "Call us, we are here to help."

**B. Prioritization of 2016 Goals** – Finalization of meeting topics and 2016 goals included identifying the following:

- i. April 12<sup>th</sup> – Highlands Library(if available), Urban Forestry Updates, Special Populations (mtg site)
- ii. May 10<sup>th</sup> - CED and Transportation
- iii. June 14<sup>th</sup> – Golf Course Operations/Bond (mtg site), Volunteer Update
- iv. July – No meeting, enjoy Renton River Days
- v. August TBD – Howard Hanson Dam tour
- vi. September 13<sup>th</sup> – Kenyon Dobson Park and Trail Connection Points
- vii. October 11<sup>th</sup> – Tour Renton Parks, Cascade /Tiffany Park Connections
- viii. November 8<sup>th</sup> – All Trail Connections, NRE/REC Season Wrap Ups
- ix. December 6<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Party at the Renton Museum

**C. Parks Planning Update** – Leslie Betlach provided updates.

- The draft Master Plan & Environmental Impact Statement will be reviewed at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting at Kenneydale Elementary School. Renton is recommending using bus lanes for light rail use. If a trail is constructed on the rail bed, when the light rail comes, they will use the rail bed and there is no room to relocate the trail.
- She informed the board that she just learned that there is a public comment meeting on the trail (from Logan to Rainier Avenue) tonight at the Renton Senior Center.
- Fletcher property acquisition is now complete. This is a single resident lot next to Cascade Park which will be developed into parking opening up the street view presence of the park entrance. She shared photos to help better explain and show the concept plan of the park development.

- She also shared photos of the Fawcett property that was acquired in 2015.

**8. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Kelly introduced the new Facilities Director, Michael Kirk. Michael described his experience and mission for the department. His leadership philosophy entails, "Educate, Edify, Empower and Evolve".

**9. INFORMATION**

- Parks Maintenance is trying new organic fertilizers in selection locations for an evaluation.
- Benches and wind sleeves are going in at Kennydale Beach.
- New playground swing styles are being evaluated.
- Waste Management contract was extended to February 2017 while transitioning to new contract with Republic.
- 4/27 – Community Services Employee Recognition Luncheon.
- 4/30 – Arbor Day Presentation at Cedar River Park 9:30am.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Cynthia Burns and seconded by Tim Searing to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m. All were in favor, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Tim Searing", written over a horizontal line.  
Signature